



PLACER COUNTY
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EDWARD N. BONNER
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STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 01/24/02, 1600 HOURS
DATE/TIME OF OCCURRENCE: 10/02/01, 1205 HOURS
NATURE OF CALL: MOTHER ARRESTED IN INFANT'S DEATH
LOCATION OF CALL: NEWCASTLE, CALIFORNIA
CASE NUMBER: SO01-17037
SUSPECT ARRESTED: RHONDA MARIE MODGLIN, 19 YEARS

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

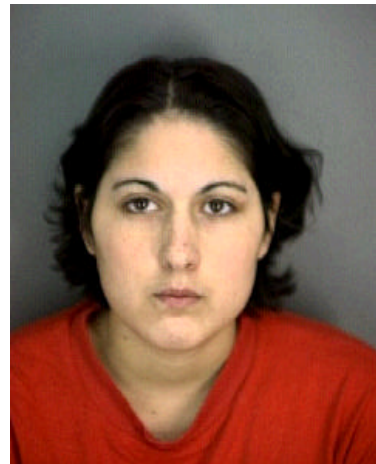
In October 2001, the Placer County Sheriff's Department received a call from a female advising that her infant son had fallen and was injured. Fire personnel and Placer County Sheriff deputies responded to the residence located in a mobile home park off of Highway 193 in Newcastle.

Upon arrival, paramedics found the infant not breathing, initiated CPR and were able to resuscitate the infant, who was transported UCD Medical Center in Sacramento. Investigators responded to the scene and made contact with the infant's mother, Rhonda Modglin. She advised investigators that while she was alone at the residence with the infant, she had changed his diaper and placed him on the kitchen table unattended while she washed some dishes. Modglin said she heard a loud noise and turned around to see her son had fallen from the table to the floor and called 911 for help.

Investigators then responded to UCD Medical Center to conduct further follow-up on the incident. The initial medical evaluation revealed head trauma to the infant that was inconsistent with the explanation the mother had given in regards to what happened.

Three days after the incident the infant died, and an autopsy revealed severe head injuries consistent with the "Shaken Baby Syndrome".

As a result of the autopsy and thorough investigation of the incident a warrant was issued on January 22, 2002 for the arrest of Rhonda Modglin charging her with 273a(b) PC, Assault on a child causing death, and 192(a) PC, Involuntary manslaughter. On January 24, 2002, Modglin was arrested on the outstanding arrest warrant in Roseville, California, and booked into the Placer County Jail. Her bail was set at \$50,000.



RELEASED BY CAPTAIN RICK ARMSTRONG

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